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Collaborative Decision Resources

SDMS Document ID



2002697

TO: BONNIE LAVELLE
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FROM: LOUISE SMART

Dear Bonnie:

Here are a couple of guidance documents on FACA - one from the Bureau of Reclamation, and one from the Forest Service.

A major factor seems to be whether Working Group members are representing themselves or are representing others. FACA does not apply in meetings "where advice or opinions of *individual attendees* are sought." In our Procedural Guidelines for the Working Group, we say (p.1), "Each member of the Working Group is expected to: ... (b) clearly articulate and represent the interests of his or her agency/organization/neighborhood... (f) keep his or her constituent group(s) informed and solicit their input." Also, on p. 3, "They [members of the Working Group] will represent the interests of their constituent group(s) and bring their constituents' concerns and ideas to the discussions."

Keystone has used collaborative processes in which the participants in such a group were chosen to be representative of particular interests, and then has been explicit that they were speaking for themselves as individuals. I think this was one way to address this concern.

Mary Margaret said you have some factors that make this Working Group not a FACA committee. I would love to have you review this with me, so we have some certainty that we are doing things right.

ALSO - Could you send me (shortsmart@AOL.com) or bring tomorrow the most recent language for the "purpose" statement? Should we send this out to the Working Group, so they have it prior to the January 28 meeting? Should we look at this language from the perspective of FACA obligations?

I look forward to seeing you tomorrow.